

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANA 01418 260854Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /048 W

-----001102 260905Z /23

R 260643Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4241

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

CHUSMTM, DHAHRAN SAUDI ARABIA

USMTM RIYADH SAUDI ARABIA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

DIA WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

S E C R E T SANA 1418

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YE

SUBJ: MILITARY SUPPLY PROGRAM FOR YEMEN

REF: USMTM, RIYADH MSG DTG 4027/0801227 (AS RECVD)

1. REFTEL IS ADMIRABLE OUTLINE OF STEPS WHICH WE MUST TAKE  
IN ORDER TO BUILD MOMENTUM FOR OUR MILITARY SUPPLY PROGRAM  
IN YEMEN. PROGRAM IS NOW FALTERING WITH EVEN LARGER PROBLEMS  
ON HORIZON. GOALS OF PROGRAM ARE ATTAINABLE, HOWEVER, THROUGH  
BETTER COORDINATION WITH SAUDIS. I WANT TO MAKE SEVERAL  
OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THIS COORDINATIO GMF

2. FIRST, IT CAN TAKE PLACE ONLY IN SAUDI ARABIA, ALTHOUGH  
DAO SANA CAN CONTINUE TO DEAL WITH SAUDI OFFICIALS IN YEMEN  
AND VISIT USMTM FROM TIME TO TIME TO BRIEF U.S. AND SAUDI  
OFFICIALS.

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3. SECOND, MOST OF REFTEL RECOMMENDATIONS APPEAR TO BE  
FULLY WITHIN SCOPE OF AUTHORITY WHICH USMTM PRESENTLY  
HAS FOR DEALING WITH MPRPZARY SUPPLY PROGRAM CU SJMEN ON  
SAME BASIS AS OUR MILITARY SUPPLY PROGRAMS IN THE KINGDOM.  
THUS, TALKS IN RIYADH ALONG LINES OF PARA 5 OF REFTEL, TO  
VERIFY ASSESSMENT AND PRESENT STATUS OF PROGRAM,  
PROBABLY CAN PROCEED WITHOUT FURTHER AUTHORIZATION.

HOWEVER, WASHINGTON AUTHORIZATION WOULD BE USEFUL TO REPEAT.

4. THIRD, WITH REGARD TO PARA 6A(4), INSTRUCTIONS ARE NEEDED FROM DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN ORDER BOTH TO DEFINE ANY GROWING THREAT FROM SOUTH YEMEN AND ALSO TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE YEMENI NEEDS IN AIR FORCE AND ARMOR CORPS TO MEET THAT THREAT. FOR PAST THREE YEARS, OUR POSITION HAS BEEN THAT YEMENIS NEEDED MODERNIZATION OF BOTH ARMOR AND AIR FORCE, ALTHOUGH WE RESERVED OUR POSITION AS SUPPLIER OF SUCH WEAPONS. IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT TO KNOW WHAT SAUDI VIEWS ARE ON BOTH THESE SUBJECTS AND TO LET THEM KNOW HOW WE MIGHT RESPOND, PARTICULARLY IN MATTER OF AIRCRAFT. IF 8 FSES CANNOT BE DIVERTED FROM EARLIER ETHIOPIAN PRODUCTION IN ORDER TO PERMIT IMMEDIATE DELIVERY TO YEMEN, THEN SAUDIS (AND YARG) WOULD HAVE TO WAIT TWO YEARS FOR NEW PRODUCTION MODELS. WE ARE EQUALLY UNCERTAIN WHERE REQUEST FOR YAR MIGHT NOW FIT IN OUR CHANGING REGIONAL AND CONGRESSIONAL REQUIREMENTS. SAUDIS DESERVE ANSWER; SO DO YEMENIS. MY SUCCESSOR WILL ALSO BE INTERESTED IN DEPARTMENT VIEWS ON THIS SENSITIVE SUBJECT.

5. I THINK WHEN OUR ARRANGEMENTS TO SUPPLY DEFENSIVE WEAPONS TO SOMALIA ARE IN PLACE IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO RAISE SUBJECT OF SOUTHERN ARABIA WITH LEADERS OF THE KINGDOM, AND PARTICULARLY WITH PRINCES SULTAN AND SAUD.

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SUCH TALKS WOULD, OF COURSE, GO BEYOND QUESTIONS OF HARDWARE TO DISCUSSION OF SITUATION THAT THEY FORESEE IN BOTH YEMENS IN THE NEXT YEAR AND STRATEGY THEY MIGHT LIKE TO PURSUE. I WOULD BE WILLING TO VISIT KINGDOM BEFORE MY DEPARTURE FROM YEMEN IN LATE APRIL TO JOIN AMBASSADOR WEST FOR SUCH TALKS. SUCH A VISIT AT THE END OF MY THREE YEARS PLUS IN SANA COULD REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO REGIONAL COOPERATION WITH THE SAUDIS IN THIS CORNER OF THE PENINSULA, AND PERHAPS LAY A BETTER BASIS FOR MY SUCCESSOR TO UNDERSTAND AND SUPPORT SAUDI POLICIES IN YEMEN.

SCOTES

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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